



Level 4

Fun at Kids Central 79 Earth Day Butterfly Garden



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Little Fox Readers

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Nina hurried into Kids Central. “Guess what!” she said. “My class went to the butterfly garden for Earth Day. Now I know everything about butterflies.”

“Bugs are boring,” Bobby said.

Nina glared at him. “Butterflies are important!”

Bobby shrugged. “Boring.”



“Hi, everyone!” a voice said.

“Cool! Mr. Dunn’s here again!” Jason said.

“Miss Shelly’s out today,” Mr. Dunn said. “So I’m here to celebrate Earth Day with everybody at Kids Central!”

“In science we talked about recycling,” Izzie said.



“We made birdhouses,” Jason said.

“Well, we’re going to plant a butterfly garden,” Mr. Dunn said.

Nina grinned. “I know a lot about butterflies. They pollinate flowers.”

Mr. Dunn smiled. “They also keep plants healthy. Let’s go outside. Ms. Folani said we can put the garden near the



playground.”

The kids filled their water bottles and walked outside.

“I already prepared the soil for our garden,” Mr. Dunn said. He pointed to a sunny spot. “Let’s make a border with some rocks.”

After they finished making the border,



Mr. Dunn showed the kids a drawing. “This shows where to plant things.”

Ethan picked up a plant. “What’s this?”

“Milkweed,” Mr. Dunn said.

“I know about that!” Nina said. “Some caterpillars eat milkweed before they turn into butterflies.”

Jason looked at the drawing. “The



milkweed goes over there,” he said. “I’ll help Ethan plant it.”

Izzie and Nina looked at other flowers.

“They’re very colorful,” Izzie said.

“Butterflies see more colors than people do,” Nina said. “They even see ultraviolet light that is invisible to us.”

“Let’s plant these yellow flowers first,”



Izzie said.

“These were a good choice, Mr. Dunn,” Nina said. “The flowers are flat so the butterflies can reach the nectar.”

Mr. Dunn lifted his eyebrows. “I’m glad you approve.”

Bobby looked at two circles on the drawing. “Are those landing pads for



butterflies?”

Mr. Dunn laughed. “Nope. They’re rocks.”

“Butterflies rest on flat rocks,” Nina said. “The rocks give off heat in the morning. That helps the butterflies warm up. I learned—”

“We know,” Bobby said. “You learned



everything at the butterfly garden.” He put the two flat rocks in place while the others planted flowers.

Then Mr. Dunn gave Bobby a shallow bowl and a bucket of sand. “This is for our butterfly puddler.” Mr. Dunn explained how the butterfly puddler worked.

Bobby filled the bowl with sand. Then



he poured in water until it reached the top of the sand.

Soon the planting was done. Ethan watered the garden. Then the kids sat under a tree, sipping water.

“Now we wait for a butterfly,” Mr. Dunn said.

“I see one!” Nina cried. “It’s going to



our garden.”

“Awesome,” Bobby said. “It’s drinking from the butterfly puddler!”

“Huh?” Nina said. “What’s a butterfly puddler?”

Bobby smiled. “It’s like a birdbath for butterflies. They can stand on sand while they drink water.”



“Oh.” Nina flushed. “That’s cool. I guess I don’t know everything about butterflies!”

Things You'll Need



a large shovel



a shallow bowl or birdbath



some rocks



water



brightly colored flowers



2 flat stones



some sand

Do It Yourself



1) Prepare an area by digging up the soil with the large shovel. Then rake the soil until it's smooth.



2) Make a border for the garden with rocks or other materials.



3) Get some plants with brightly colored flowers.



4) Dig holes for the plants using the small shovel. Plant the flowers about 30 cm apart, or follow the instructions on the pots.



5) Fill an old birdbath or shallow bowl with sand. Pour water into the bowl until it reaches the top of the sand.



6) Place flat rocks in a sunny spot.

7) Water your plants. Wait for butterflies to come!